

**TOP SECRET EIDER**

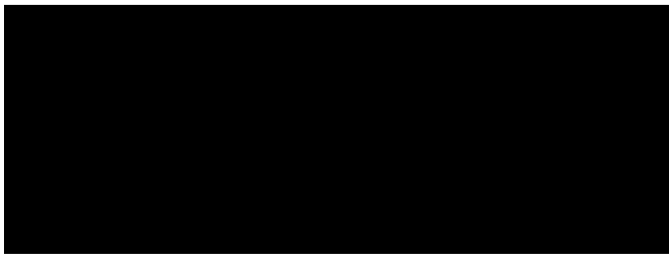
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NSC BRIEFING

2 March 1955

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**CHINESE OFFSHORE ISLANDS**

- I. With ChiCom occupation Nanchishan (26 Feb), Peiping announced "more favorable conditions for liberating Formosa, Fukien islands"--Matsus and Quemoy.
- II. Matsus might be next.
  - A. French correspondent back from China says ChiCom propaganda about Matsus similar to pre-Tachen days.
  - B. US attachés Taipei say new jet base (Luchiao), just 175 mi north Matsus, done soon.
  - C. 

III. Hard to judge which of nine islands

in Matsus area would be hit first  
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A. ChiComs might try to take one or more of lightly defended islands before attacking three major ones.

B. ChiNats fear early invasion Wuchius, midway between Matsus and Quemoy. Wuchiu shelled by ChiCom ships 25 Feb.

IV. Nats beefing up Matsu defenses.

A. Full strength 84th Div (11,000 troops) arriving this week. Regulars now there return Quemoy.

B. Guerrilla strength to be 1,900.

V. Quemoy quiet, only occasional light shelling.

A. ChiComs intensifying propaganda to Quemoy. Boats, kites, artillery sending safe conduct passes, other literature.

~~B. Some 13,000 ChiNat troops to arrive~~

~~this month, increasing Quemoy regulars from 54,000 to 67,000.~~

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